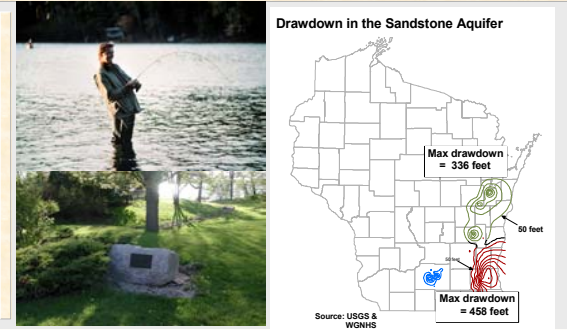


# The New Groundwater Law - 2003 Wisconsin Act 310

Overview for GAC  
April 1, 2005



## Groundwater management needs



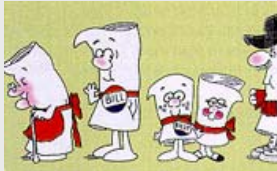
Ability to manage *acute* impacts of pumping on lakes, streams, wetlands

Mechanism to address *chronic and cumulative* impacts of pumping on regional scale

Information and data (water levels, water use, well location, modeling)

Funding mechanism

## Key aspects of legislation



(Courtesy of Schoolhouse Rock)

Four key areas addressed by legislation

- 1) Notification, fees, and water use reporting
- 2) Environmental review of high capacity wells
- 3) Groundwater Management Areas
- 4) Groundwater Advisory Committee

## Tracking construction of all new wells...



Requires prior notification of *all* new well construction (domestic and high capacity)

Fees on *all* new wells -

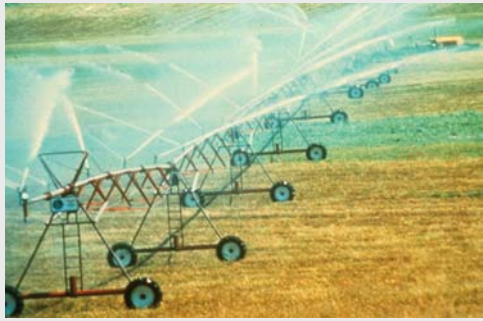
\$50 for private well, \$500 for high cap

Helps assure proper location and construction

Increased inspections

Goes into effect on May 1, 2005

## ...and water use from high capacity wells

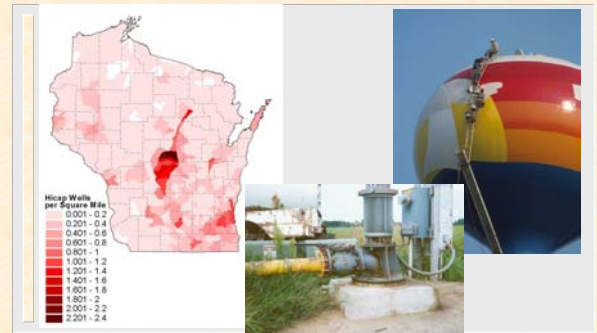


All high capacity wells will report water use on an annual basis

Includes high caps with existing approvals

Improved knowledge will help better manage groundwater resources

## High capacity wells



9,000 - 11,000 in use

Can pump > 100,000 gpd (70 gpm) from single property

Used for irrigation, livestock, manufacturing, beverages, and public water supply

About 300 approvals per year

## Environmental reviews of high capacity wells



Environmental review of certain high capacity wells

- GPAs, consumptive use, springs (more detail to come)

If a proposed well meets any of these conditions, an environmental analysis is needed

No significant adverse impact standard

Balance test for public water supply wells

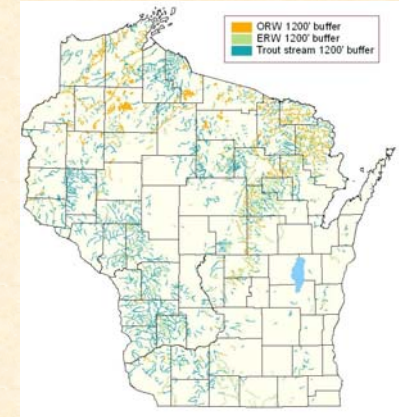
Expect only a handful needing expanded review per year

### **GPAs:**

ORW =  
Outstanding  
Resource Water

ERW =  
Exceptional  
Resource Water

Trout Streams  
include Class I,  
II, and III

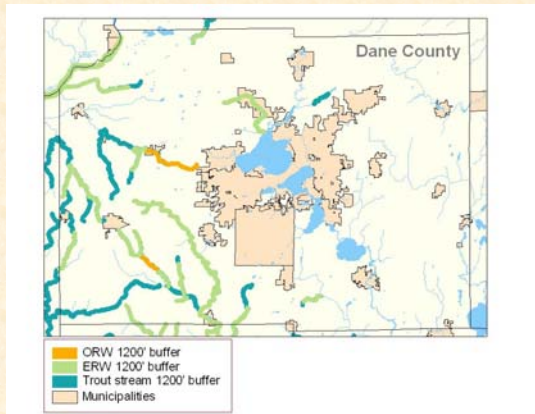


Groundwater Protection Areas (GPAs)

- within 1200 feet of ORW, ERW, and trout streams

Farm drainage ditch exemption

Idea is to provide buffer for critical water resources



Dane County Groundwater Protection Areas

For illustration purposes only

## Consumptive uses



Withdrawals that result in water loss of  $>95\%$

“Water loss” defined as loss of water from the basin from which it is withdrawn as a result of interbasin diversion or consumptive use or both

Mostly applies to water bottlers & beverage manufacturers

## Impacts to Springs



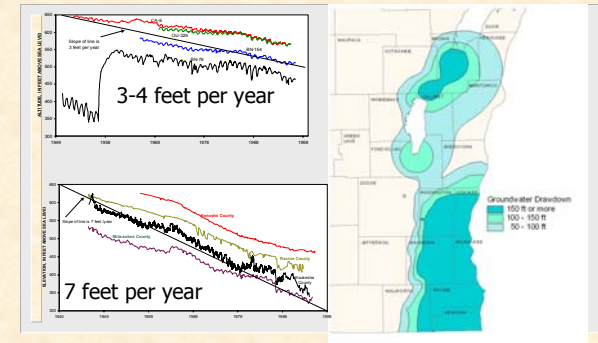
Potential significant impact to a spring (no buffer zone)

Definition is specific:

- Area of concentrated discharge at the land surface
- > 1 cfs at least 80% of the time

Location/number is unknown

## Groundwater Management Areas



Centered on Waukesha and Brown County

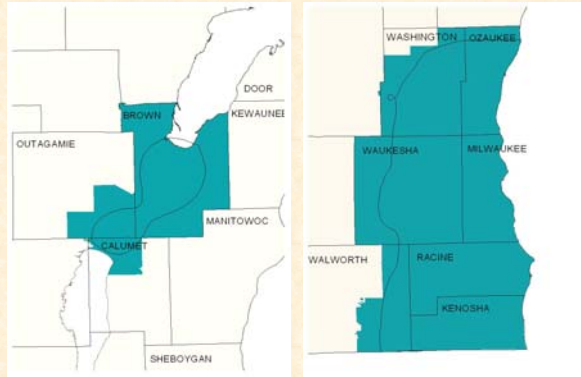
Areas of significant drawdowns and over-pumping over the last 100 years

Water quality problems (arsenic, radium, salinity)

Need for a coordinated management strategy

150-ft contour is the basis for designation

## Possible look of GMAs



For illustration purposes only

GMA's include all of Brown and Waukesha County and the surrounding area....

"consisting of the entire area of each city, village, and town at least a portion of which is within the area" defined by the 150-foot drawdown contour

Needs to be defined by rule

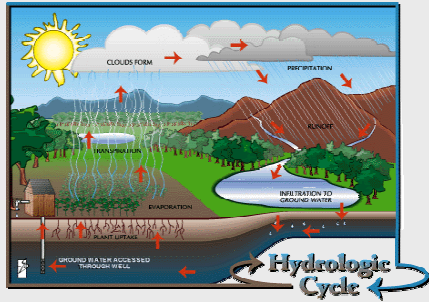
## Groundwater Advisory Committee



This is why we're here!



## Other key points



Recognizes connection between surface and groundwater, quality and quantity

Retains protection of public water utility wells

Most areas of state and most well approvals will be "business as usual"

Acknowledges need for further solutions, including legislation

Adaptive management approaches

## Questions?

Questions?